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U.S. Dept. of Labor

Security for children

Washington

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# Security for Children

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## Maternal and Child-Welfare Provisions of the Social Security Act

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## THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT

THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT was approved by the President August 14, 1935.

Under this act a system of Federal old-age benefits is being established and Federal funds are made available to the States to help them care for children, the needy aged, the blind, and the unemployed, to protect public health, and to assist in the vocational rehabilitation of the physically handicapped.

### What the Act Does for Children

Children benefit indirectly by the services mentioned above which promote the general welfare of families and individuals. But the Congress realized that many children need special protection which their families cannot give them without aid from the community. The 11 titles of the act therefore include 2 that are especially concerned with the health and welfare of mothers and children.

**Title IV** enables the Federal Government to help the States to furnish financial assistance to needy dependent children in their own homes. This title, which also provides public assistance to the aged and the blind, is administered by the Social Security Board.

**Title V** enables the Federal Government to help the States establish, extend, or strengthen services for maternal and child health, crippled children, and child welfare. These three parts of the act are administered by the Children's Bureau of the United States Department of Labor.



### Aid to Dependent Children

Everyone knows that the best place for a child is his own home.

It is estimated that there are more than a million needy dependent children in the United States. Laws for the care of such children in their own homes have been in operation for more than 20 years and now exist in 46 States, 2 Territories, and the District of Columbia. Not all localities have actually given this aid, however.

The Social Security Act, in title IV, makes available Federal funds to help the States care for needy dependent children. Such children are defined as those under the age of 16 years who have been deprived of parental support or care by reason of the death, continued absence from the home, or physical or mental incapacity of a parent, and who are living in the home of a parent or other relative as specified in the act.

The Federal Government pays those States with approved plans $1 for every $2 spent in the State for this type of assistance, up to a combined total of $18 per month for the first dependent child in the family and $12 per month for each additional child in the same family.

The Federal Government also pays one-third of what it costs the State to administer this form of assistance.

The entire responsibility for initiating and administering aid to dependent children rests with the States themselves. Under the Social Security Act the Federal Government does not make grants directly to dependent children. It makes them to States with plans conforming with the terms of the Federal act.

*For further information with regard to aid to dependent children, write to the Social Security Board, Washington, D. C.*



### Maternal and Child-Health Services

If a mother dies when her baby is born, the baby starts life with a serious handicap, and the family and community feel this loss. If the baby does not survive or does not live to become a healthy child and useful adult, this too is a serious loss to the family and the community.

Individuals and families are unable without aid to do all that needs to be done to protect the health of the people, and especially of mothers and children. The State and the community must help.

The Social Security Act makes Federal funds available to help the States in this important work of making life more secure.

Each of the 48 States, Alaska, Hawaii, and the District of Columbia has made its plans for maternal and child-health services under the Social Security Act. Nearly all have been approved by the Children's Bureau.

These plans differ from State to State but all have certain similar features aimed at the education of parents, children, nurses, and doctors in the care of the health of mothers and children, and at the provision of direct services for the protection of the health of mothers and children.

Practically every State now has a bureau of maternal and child health as a major division of the State department of health, with a medical director in charge. Health supervision by physicians will be made available for mothers and children. To assist mothers in the care of their children and themselves, public-health nurses will be employed in many counties and towns where until now there have been few nurses or none at all.

*For further information write to your State health department or to the Children's Bureau, U. S. Department of Labor, Washington, D. C.*

## Services for Crippled Children

No one knows exactly how many crippled children there are in the United States. There are probably between 300,000 and 500,000 of them.

Until the Social Security Act was passed not all the States had made public provision for the care of crippled children.

The Social Security Act makes Federal funds available to help the States find their crippled children and give them the medical, surgical, hospital, and after care they need. The Federal Government does not help these children directly; it gives assistance to the agency in the State which has charge of crippled-children's services.

Already the majority of the States have submitted to the Children's Bureau plans for services for crippled children under the Social Security Act, and most of these plans have been approved and are in operation.

The States are holding clinics, establishing diagnostic centers, and making provision for the surgical treatment, medical care, and after care of crippled children.

Private organizations are cooperating in this work. Many of them are helping the State agency by arranging for transportation of crippled children and in other ways.

Special effort is being made to find crippled children in remote rural areas, so that no crippled child will be deprived of his chance for care and treatment.

*For further information write to the official State agency administering services for crippled children in your State or to the Children's Bureau, U. S. Department of Labor, Washington, D. C.*



## Child-Welfare Services

Many dependent children need care in their own homes. But there are other dependent children who need care in foster homes, or in institutions, or for whom some special care must be provided.

The care of such children must not be left to chance. It must be planned by persons who know what is best for children.

The Social Security Act makes available Federal grants to the States to enable them to establish, extend, and strengthen welfare services for the care of homeless, dependent, and neglected children, and children in danger of becoming delinquent.

These grants will not be paid directly for the care of these children. They are intended to promote adequate methods of community child-welfare organization in predominantly rural areas and other areas of special need.

In States with approved plans the Federal grants will pay part of the cost of district, county, or local child-welfare services and will help to develop the work being done by the State department of public welfare to encourage and develop services in local communities.

This will make it possible for States to employ persons who are familiar with child-welfare problems and who can help communities give better care to homeless, neglected, and dependent children and children living under conditions that may lead them to become delinquent.

*For further information write to your State public-welfare agency or to the Children's Bureau, U. S. Department of Labor, Washington.*

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